

City of Edinburgh Council Corporate Parenting Plan 2023- 2026 - Short Version



**How we will make sure Edinburgh's children
grow up feeling loved, safe, and respected.**

What is Corporate Parenting?

We refer to people who have been in the Care System at any point in their lives as being Care Experienced. That includes people who have been adopted, in foster care, lived in a kinship placement, stayed in a residential house or lived in secure care. It also refers to people who have been looked after at home but have needed to go to regular children's hearings to make sure they are being looked after well.



People that work for certain organisations are Corporate Parents, and they have a responsibility to do their best for children and young people who are Care Experienced.

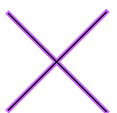
A good Corporate Parent wants the best for those who are Care Experienced, takes responsibility for their wellbeing and prioritises their needs.



What has happened so far?

Our last plan looked at –

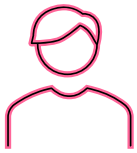
- Creating a Corporate Parenting team
- Making sure we had the right kinds of care settings available.
- Improving how our Care Experienced children and young people were doing in school.



Any targets that were not reached or were still being worked on have been added to the new plan.

Who is the plan for?

This plan is for workers so that they know what they need to do for children and young people who are Care Experienced in Edinburgh.



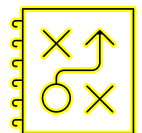
The plan also looks at how to support adults who are Care Experienced.

This is the short version of the plan. It has been written so that you can see what we are going to do 'at a glance'.



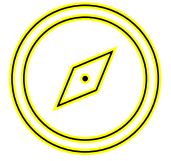
You can read the full plan that shows the different tasks we will complete to get things done.

There is also a delivery plan that shows how we will get everything done over the next three years.



Why is the plan written like this?

We used some guidance from the Scottish Government to help us write the plan.



The Promise is the Scottish Government's commitment to improve the Care System. We used their five foundations to help us think about what we need to do. They are –



Family



Voice



Care



People



Scaffolding

We also used Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC).

GIRFEC is the Scottish Government's commitment to provide all children, young people and their families with the right support at the right time.



There are wellbeing indicators that help people think about what children and young people need.

What are the Wellbeing Indicators?

The GIRFEC indicators are used to describe how we can think about the wellbeing of a child or young person.



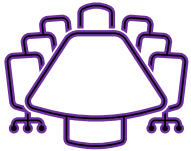
We are using the wellbeing indicators to show that we want our Care Experienced children and young people to get the same standard of care as any child.



In our plan we have shown the Scottish Government description of the wellbeing indicators. We have then explained the priorities that we are focusing on in the plan, and explained why we think these are the right things.

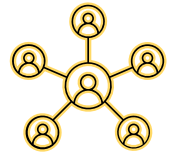
Who wrote the plan?

Edinburgh Champions Board are groups of Care Experienced young people who talk directly to their Corporate Parents and work hard to make the care system better. They added in their priorities.



City of Edinburgh Council has a Corporate Parenting Board. It has members from lots of different organisations with Corporate Parenting responsibilities across Edinburgh. They looked at how to make improvements to the system.

People who work with families and children spent time together in May 2023 and looked at the plan and added their ideas too.



Safe

“Growing up in an environment where a child or young person feels secure, nurtured, listened to and enabled to develop to their full potential. This includes freedom from abuse or neglect.”



We want to make sure that in Edinburgh, when a child is at risk of harm that we support them and their family as best we can. To do this we are going to make sure that we consider what kind of support they and their family need and then do our best to provide that help.



That could be more challenging depending on what part of the city you live in, or if you have moved out of the city, as services can vary across different areas, but we are determined to address this.



Safe 1 - When statutory measures of care are necessary, including children who are ‘Looked After at Home’, provision of care is led by the need of the individual and their family.

We also think it is important that we see fewer of our Care Experienced children and young people in conflict with the law or going on to be in conflict with the law as adults.



Safe 2 - Redress the over-representation of Care Experienced individuals within the Justice System

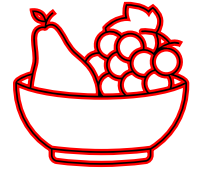
We also want to make sure that when young people are ready to move into their own homes, that they feel ready, safe and well supported.



Safe 3 – When young people leave care and move on to independence, they are supported into the right type of home setting and offered appropriate support and guidance.

Healthy

“Having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare, and support in learning to make healthy and safe choices.”



We think it is important that we make special efforts to look after the health of our Care Experienced children and young people. One way of doing that is by making sure we check up on how they are.

We will also that they get the health services they need, wherever they are living.



Healthy 1- Ensure prompt access to high quality healthcare as and when required.



We need to hear from our Care Experienced community about what health supports would be most helpful, or where they feel things could be better.

We also want to help our Care Experienced Community to consider their wider wellbeing and support them to prioritise this.



Healthy 2- Specific healthcare inputs for Care Experienced Individuals are accessible and tailored to need

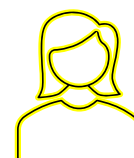
Achieving

“Being supported and guided in learning and in the development of skills, confidence and self-esteem, at home, in school and in the community.”

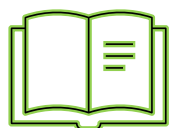


For some of our children and young people, their learning can be interrupted by life events, and it is our responsibility to help them keep up their learning and reach their potential.

It may be that they want to return to learning later in life, and we want to support that too.



Achieving 1 - Create opportunities for extra support for Care Experienced learners, where and when best suited to their needs



We also recognise the importance of learning in different ways, and we are committed to helping our Care Experienced Children and Young People access different opportunities to help them gain confidence and new skills.

Achieving 2 - Raise aspiration and feelings of empowerment amongst the Care Experienced Community

Nurtured

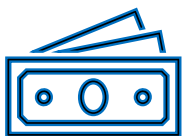
“Growing, developing and being cared for in an environment which provides the physical and emotional security, compassion and warmth necessary for healthy growth and to develop resilience and a positive identity.”



When children and young people are not able to stay with their birth families anymore, we know that keeping in close contact with brothers and sisters is very important. We have committed to making sure that these relationships are central to the plans for our Care Experienced Children and Young People.



Nurtured 1 - Relationships between brothers and sisters are prioritised and nurtured, regardless of care setting or geography.



When Care Experienced Young People become more independent they can find it hard to know what financial support is available so we want to look at how we make this more straightforward.

Nurtured 2 - Maximising income for our Care Experienced Young People, so that they have enough money to live on

There are also different circumstances that can mean that some members of the Care Experienced Community can access different levels of support than others. We are going to get a clearer picture of what these differences are and start to think about how we can make this fairer.



Nurtured 3 – Financial and practical support for Children and Young People in care, as well as Care Leavers, is provided as needed and is not placement-type dependent.



We are also looking at how we can make sure spaces that are used, when meeting with family members, is suitable.

Nurtured 4 – Family time is available in spaces that are suitable and well equipped.

Active

“Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport, which contribute to healthy growth and development, at home, in school and in the community.”



Children and Young People need to be supported to be active and have hobbies to help with their overall health and wellbeing. As Corporate Parents we need to encourage this in our Care Experienced Community.

Active 1- Ensure that all Care Experienced children can access Universal Services, such as youth clubs and out of school activities.

Even into adulthood, the benefits of gaining new skills, hobbies and qualifications is well known. We want to support our Care Experienced Community to be active and pursue their interests throughout their lives.



Active 2 - Removing financial barriers for Care Experienced Individuals accessing life skills and development opportunities.

Respected

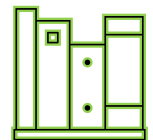
“Being involved in and having their voices heard in decisions that affect their life, with support where appropriate.”



Being Care Experienced doesn't stop when you leave care or become an adult, so we have made a commitment to helping Care Leavers through improved services and also taking Care Experience into account when designing new services across the council.

Respected 1 - Recognising Care Experience as a lifelong identifier.

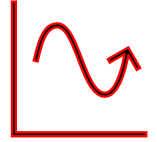
We believe that whether or not you are an official 'Corporate Parent', that people should have a basic understanding of what it means to be Care Experienced. We plan to make sure that across Edinburgh people are trained in the importance of effective Corporate Parenting, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Respected 2 - Ensure that all staff have a basic understanding of what it means to be Care Experienced, as well as raise awareness amongst the general population of Edinburgh.

Respected 3 - Ensure that we uphold the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), regardless of a child or young person's living arrangements.

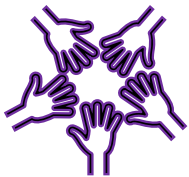
We also want to get better at seeing how our children and young people in care are feeling, so we plan to start tracking the changes in how they are feeling about different parts of their lives. This will help us to deliver services that better meet the needs of each individual child.



Respected 4 - Monitoring achievements and progress of Care Experienced Children and Young People

Responsible

“Having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles at home, in school and in the community, and where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision.”



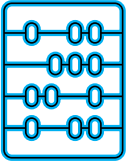
In Edinburgh we want to build a thriving Care Experienced Community. We plan to do this through our new Care Experienced Community Hub in the centre of Edinburgh, as well as through fun community events and meaningful engagement and feedback opportunities.

Responsible 1 - Ensure that Edinburgh’s Care Experienced community are connected, well informed of opportunities, and empowered to share their thoughts and views throughout their lifespan.

We also recognise how challenging becoming a parent can be. For Care Leavers who themselves become parents, we hope to build a supportive community where they can access support from their peers and a network of professionals, if or when they want it.



Responsible 2 - Help Care Experienced parents in Edinburgh to feel valued and supported to be the best parents that they can be, with resources available as and when required.



We know that moving on to living independently can be hard, so we are going to make sure we support young people leaving care to be well equipped for this next stage of their lives.

Responsible 3 - Independent living skills and budgeting advice is available from an early age through specific programmes as well as through day-to-day opportunities.

Included

“Having help to overcome inequalities and being accepted as part of their family, school and community.”

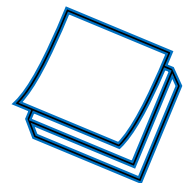


For our Care Experienced Community to be properly supported we need to make sure that the right people are involved and that they communicate well with one another. This has to involve people with lived experience. If this is done well we are much more likely to have a Care Experienced Community who feel that they are being listened to and included in decision making.

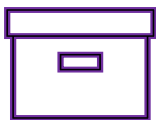


Included 1 - Improve oversight and planning for partnership working between CEC departments and their partner agencies, so that the Corporate Parenting plan can be achieved.

We need to make sure that the way we keep information about children and young people when they are in our care is written in a way that is easy to access and thoughtful.

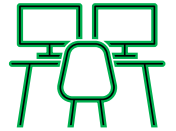


We also need to get better at keeping different types of information, to help make children and young people's life stories as rich and meaningful as possible. If and when people want to read their information as an adult, they should also be offered support to do this.



Included 2 - Records that are kept about children and young people are accurate, considered and well written.

As adults we want members of our Care Experienced Community to be able to access employment opportunities across the workforce.



Included 3 – Create employment opportunities for our Care Experienced Community that are varied and well supported.